

Remarks

Objection to Claim 16

The Examiner has objected to claim 16 for missing part of a limitation. The Applicant has amended claim 16 to provide the missing limitation. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of claim 16.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner has rejected claims 13 and 18 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by United States patent number 5,864,408 issued to Kumashiro, hereinafter referred to as Kumashiro. The Applicant respectfully requests careful consideration of the explanation provided below regarding the rejections of claims 13 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Rejection of Claim 13 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claim 13 has been amended to include limitations that the Applicant believes the Examiner has suggested in item 7 on page 4 of the office action that are related to allowable subject matter. Therefore, for at least this reason, the Applicants respectfully submit that a valid prima facie anticipation rejection with respect to the amended claim 13 is not present. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Rejection of Claim 18 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claim 18 has been amended to include limitations that the Applicant believes the Examiner has suggested in item 7 on page 4 of the office action that are related to allowable subject matter. Therefore, for at least this reason, the Applicants respectfully submit that a valid prima facie anticipation rejection with respect to the amended claim 18 is not present. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. §

102(e).

Objections to Claims 14-17 and 19-22

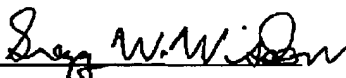
The Examiner has objected to claims 14-17 and 19-22 as reciting allowable subject matter but dependent upon rejected claims. The Applicants respectfully submit that in view of the amendments to the independent claims from which claims 14-17 and 19-22 depend, the objections to claims 14-17 and 19-22 have been overcome. Accordingly, the Applicants request withdrawal of the objections to claims 14-17 and 19-22.

Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully submit that claims are in a condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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